UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

JUNE 5, 1915.

DEAR SIR:

The introduced starling, in recent years, has been the subject of considerable adverse comment. The bird is extending its range and is becoming a new economic factor in many communities. The Biological Survey has conducted an investigation of the bird for some years, and now desires to gather as much testimony and material as possible for a report. We shall appreciate it, therefore, if you will kindly answer the queries appended below.

We especially desire to obtain as many starling stomachs as possible for examination, and are anxious to enlist the aid of all persons who are in a position to collect stomachs of these birds. Supplies and instructions will be furnished upon request.

A franked envelope is inclosed for return of answer, post free.

All communications should be addressed to the Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Very truly, yours,

HENRY W. HENSHAW,
Chief, Biological Survey.

Approved:
DAVID F. HOUSTON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

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1. About what year did the starling appear in your neighborhood?

2. Is it now common? When did it become so? Abundance as compared with other species?

3. Is the bird destructive to fruits? State kinds, and, if possible, the approximate amount of damage.

4. Does the starling damage any other crops or property?_____

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5. What are the relations of the starling to other birds?_____

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6. Where plenty of nest boxes have been placed, has friction between the starling and other species

decreased?_____

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7. At what time of the year do the starlings begin to flock? Are they more destructive when in flocks

than at other times?_____

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8. Does the starling spend the winter in your vicinity?_____

_____

9. From your observations do you consider the starling injurious or beneficial?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Name)_____

(Address)_____

Date, ____ __ _____